

Message Text

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SUBJ: SYG WALDHEIM'S JAN 14 PRESS CONFERENCE: FUTURE
OF UN

FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS MADE BY SYG WALDHEIM ABOUT FUTURE
OF UN DURING HIS JAN 14 PRESS CONFERENCE:

" UNITED NATIONS IS A VERY DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION FROM THE
ONE WHICH CAME INTO BEING IN 1945. ORGANIZATION IS VIATLLY
CONCERNED IN PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT IN A PREIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED
CHANGE, IN TRYING TO CHANNEL THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE CHANGE
INTO A CONSTRUCTIVE PATTERN FOR FUTURE, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT
THIS PROCESS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TENSION AND ALSO BY FRICTION.
ASSEMBLY CERTAINLY REFLECTS THESE TENSIONS AND FRICTIONS, THUS,
THE LAST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY WAS MUCH CIRTICIZED IN SOME
QUARTERS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO SOME OF ITS DECISIONS. IT
SEEMS TO ME THAT PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY SHOWED THAT
MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY WAS A CHANGING MAJORITY DEPENDING ON
QUESTIONS BEING DISCUSSED. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER
THIS IN MAKING JUDGMENTS ON PERFORMANCE OF THE SESSION.

"OBVIOUSLY, UN STILL FACES, AS IT ALWAYS HAS, BASIC
PROBLEMS. FIRST IS TO GENERATE POLITICAL WILL AND SUPPORT
OF GOVTS TO MAKE IT WORK EFFECTIVELY, SECOND AND RELATED
PROBLEM IS TO IMPROVE ITS WORKING METHODS AND ORGANIZATION TO
MEASURE UP TO ENORMOUS PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WOULD COMMUNITY
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IS FACED IN OUR DAYS.

"WE ARE LIVING IN A PERIOD OF ACUTE ANXIETY IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, ANXIETY WHICH STEMS FROM ENORMOUS CHANGES WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE AND FROM A DEEP UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE. ONE THING IS CERTAIN, ONLY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE AND EFFECTIVENESS CAN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS WHICH WE FACE. WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL THE LIMITATIONS OF UN AND WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH CRITICISM OF ITS PERFORMANCE. BUT AFTER ADMITTING SHORTCOMINGS OF OUR ORGANIZATION, WE HAVE ALSO TO ADMIT THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE APPROACH WHICH IT PROVIDES. IT IS SURELY BETTER TO CLARIFY, DEBATE AND RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AND CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF NATIONS AND PEOPLES HERE IN UN, THAN TO HAVE THEM FOUGHT OUT TO THE ULTIMATE RUIN OF ALL ON ECONOMIC AND EVEN MILITARY BATTLEFIELDS OF THE FUTURE. IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES EVERYONE CONCERNED, GOVTS, SYG SECRETARIAT, PRESS AND PUBLIC, BEAR A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY THAN EVER BEFORE FOR MAKING UN A MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. "I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD. HOW CAN WE EXPECT THIS ORGANIZATION SHOULD WORK AS IT DID RIGHT AFTER THE WAR WHEN IT HAD ONLY 51 MEMBER STATES.

TODAY WE HAVE ALMOST THREE TIMES AS MANY. I FEEL THAT WHAT WE REALLY NEED IN THIS ORGANIZATION IS A CHANGE IN THE WORKING METHODS. WE HAVE MADE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE CHARTER WITH REGARD TO MEMBERSHIP IN SC AND ECOSOC, BUT WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE IS A CHANGE IN CERTAIN WORKING METHODS AND MAYBE IN THIS WAY WE CAN IMPROVE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR ORGANIZATION."

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